## **CLAIMS**

- 1. A softening detergent composition comprising:
- (a) 1 to 30% by mass of a clay mineral;
- 5 (b) 0.5 to 20% by mass of a compound capable of releasing hydrogen peroxide in water;
  - (c) 0.1 to 20% by mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or (2):

$$\begin{bmatrix} R^{1}-C-O-O-O-O-SO_{3} \\ O \end{bmatrix}_{n}^{M} \qquad (1)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R^2 - C - O & \longrightarrow & COO \\ O & & & n \end{bmatrix}$$
 (2)

10

15

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl group having 4 to 13 carbon atoms; R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl group having 5 to 13 carbon atoms; M is a hydrogen atom, or an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, with proviso that when M is an alkaline earth metal atom, n is 2, and that when M is an alkali metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, n is 1, or a combination of both; and

10 to 60% by mass of a component corresponding to a surfactant as prescribed in

JIS K 3362:1998,

20

25

wherein a mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) [component (b)/component (c)] is from 3/4 to 20/1.

PCT/JP2004/019700

- The softening detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the component (b) is from 1.5 to 20% by mass, the amount of the component (c) is from 1.5 to 20% by mass, and the mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) is from 3/4 to 7/1.
- 3. The softening detergent composition according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - (d) 0.4 to 20% by mass of a salt of a fatty acid, wherein an anionic surfactant is contained in an amount of 55% by mass or more of the component corresponding to the surfactant,
- the component (d) is contained in an amount of from 4 to 40% by mass of the component corresponding to the surfactant, and the mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) is from 20/1 to 1/1.
  - 4. The softening detergent composition according to claim 3, wherein the alkylbenzenesulfonate is contained in an amount of from 35 to 70% by mass of the component corresponding to the surfactant other than the component (d).
    - 5. A softening washing method of a fibrous manufactured article, comprising the step of washing an article to be washed with the softening detergent composition of any one of claims 1 to 4.

- 6. A method of enhancing softening effect of a clay mineral against a fibrous manufactured article, comprising the step of applying to the fibrous manufactured article,
- 5 (a) a clay mineral;
  - (b) a compound capable of releasing hydrogen peroxide in water; and
  - (c) a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or (2):

$$\begin{bmatrix} R^{1} - C - O - \left\langle O - SO_{3} \right\rangle M & (1) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} R^2 - C - O - O - O \\ O \end{bmatrix}_n M \qquad (2)$$

- wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl group having 4 to 13 carbon atoms; R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl group having 5 to 13 carbon atoms; M is a hydrogen atom, or an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, with proviso that when M is an alkaline earth metal atom, n is 2, and that when M is an alkali metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, n is 1,
- or a combination of both,
  in mass ratios satisfying:
  the component (b)/the component (c) = 3/4 to 20/1, and
  the component (a)/the component (c) = 35/1 to 1/5.

5

- 7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the component (a), the component (b) and the component (c) are applied to the fibrous manufactured article in mass ratios satisfying the component (b)/the component (c) = 3/4 to 7/1, and the component (a)/the component (c) = 30/1 to 1/5.
- 8. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of applying to the fibrous manufactured article (d) a salt of a fatty acid, wherein the components (a), the component (b), the component (c) and the component (d) are applied to the fibrous manufactured article in mass ratios satisfying the component (b)/the component (c) = 20/1 to 1/1, the component (a)/the component (c) = 35/1 to 1/5, and the component (a)/the component (d) = 20/1 to 1/5.